

Auburn Missionary Church
now
Dayspring



DEKALB
CHURCH
DAYSPRING
32

History of the

Missionary Church of Auburn

now

Dayspring Community Church

Compiled and Edited by
Rosemary Gerig

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Pastors | i |
| Illustrations | ii |
| History of Auburn Missionary Church now Dayspring Community Church | 1 |
| Bibliography | 12 |

Pastors

1929 – 1931 Jared Gerig
1931 – 1932 Loyal Ringenberg
1932 – 1936 Jasper Lehman
1936 – 1937 W. B. Uphold
1937 – 1939 C. B. Vollmer
1939 – 1946 E. F. Clauser
1946 – 1952 Menno Amstutz
1952 – 1957 J. Harlan Wright
1957 – 1959 Russell Wilbur
1959 – 1967 Clinton Moser
1967 – 1968 James Ebersole
1968 – 1972 Robert Dye
1972 – 1973 Robert Elliott
1973 – 1977 Roy Kruger
1977 – 1983 James Larnard
1983 – 1988 Bill Mallick
1988 - Bill Lyne

Illustrations

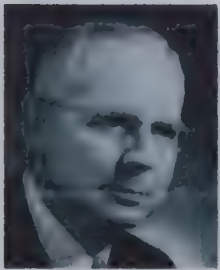
| | |
|--|----|
| S. J. Grabill | 1 |
| Jared Gerig | 1 |
| Park Avenue Church | 2 |
| Loyal Ringenberg | 2 |
| Kathleen Gerig, Dorothy and Carol Vollmer | 3 |
| E. F. Clauser | 4 |
| Ethel Smith, Lois and Eunice Gerig | 4 |
| Menno Amstutz | 4 |
| Church Moving | 4 |
| Ernie Greenfield, Garman Fry, and Ralph Gerig .. | 5 |
| J. Harlan Wright | 5 |
| Ensley Avenue Church | 5 |
| Russell Wilbur | 5 |
| Remodeled Church | 5 |
| Clinton Moser | 6 |
| James Ebersole | 7 |
| Robert Dye | 7 |
| Mortgage Burning, 1968 | 7 |
| Robert Elliott | 7 |
| Roy Kruger | 7 |
| New Church Building, 1975 | 8 |
| Ross Mahan | 8 |
| Don Bettinger | 8 |
| Bill Malick | 9 |
| Education Wings 1985, 1987 | 9 |
| Mike Cadrette | 9 |
| Marty Longcor | 9 |
| Bill Lyne | 9 |
| Scott Kennedy | 10 |
| Roy Protsman | 10 |

History of the Auburn Missionary Church
Now
Dayspring Community Church



S.J. Grabill was a passenger in 1929 on the New York Central Railroad that ran south of Auburn. While passing through the area, he noticed a small country church that appeared to be abandoned. Grabill served as district superintendent of the Missionary Church Association, always looking for places to give people an opportunity for ministry and worship. Inquiries led he and Clarence Gerig, then a pastor in Angola, to contact Henry Rakestraw about this church which was without a pastor. Some time later Rev. Grabill, Eli Gerig and his sister Clara began holding services in the church.

The United States was at the beginning of the Great Depression, but this did not deter a little band of people from beginning the new venture of providing the good news of Christ to their family, friends and neighbors. Meetings were held in that small Methodist church that S.J. Grabill had seen from the train. The church served the neighborhood close to the junction of Auburn's railway crossings. The Inter-Urban Transit made travel from Fort Wayne to Auburn convenient for the early organizers. The train ran down the middle of Ensley Avenue and could be flagged down anywhere on the route with a flashlight. Mildred Gerig remembered that if a flashlight was not available, a rolled up newspaper was used as a torch by setting the end on fire.¹



In the summer of 1929, Jared Gerig, a student at Fort Wayne Bible Institute, came to officially organize the church and serve the congregation as pastor. Sunday, July 7, 1929, Jared Gerig, his wife Mildred, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rakestraw, Raymond Rakestraw, LaVaun (Bonnie Rakestraw) Schweitzer, Effie Smith, Ethel Smith, Mildred (Smith) John, Mrs. William LaMarr, Naomi (LaMarr) Rakestraw and Ruth LaMarr became charter members of the newly organized Auburn Missionary Church. With the exception of the Gerig's, who moved from the area, the charter members gave dedicated and sacrificial service to the church for many years.

At this time, plans were made to hold a tent meeting on an empty lot located on the corner of Ensley Avenue and Lakeshore Drive. It was necessary to have a piano for the tent services so the Gerig's brought their own piano from Fort Wayne. Naomi Rakestraw was amused as she remembered that Jared's brother, Ira, rode with the piano in the back of a truck playing it all the way to Auburn. The tent meeting was instrumental in drawing some new families into the church.

Soon after Jared Gerig finished his schooling, he left to accept a full-time pastorate in Cleveland. As the founding pastor, he returned throughout the years to celebrate significant milestones of the church.

While searching for a pastor, the congregation was served by interim speakers. Among these were B.F. Leightner, J.E. Ramseyer and Joseph Klopfenstein. The congregation planned to continue holding Sunday school and church services in the borrowed Methodist church, but there was a group of attendees who objected to some of the beliefs of the Missionary Church. Therefore the little group of members had to move from the church and then met in the LaMarr home temporarily. It was during this time that it became clear that they would need their own facilities and a lot was purchased. The lot was located near Ensley Avenue on Park Avenue.

In September 1931, Loyal Ringenberg, a recent graduate of Fort Wayne Bible Institute and Taylor University, came to serve as the first full-time pastor. The congregation had purchased the lot and raised \$375 for the purpose of erecting and housing the little congregation. In early October, construction began on the 24 by 40-foot building. Loyal served as pastor, Sunday School superintendent, secretary-treasurer and youth director. Elsworth Brunkart, a retired carpenter, supervised construction. The pastor along with volunteers worked together. The Great Depression had hit Auburn full force by this time so funds were scarce, but with everyone's help the building was completed and dedicated debt-free on December 13, 1931. The building had a sawdust floor and was heated with a pot-bellied stove in the center of the church. Comfort was not the highest priority. One member, Mrs. Brunkhart, later remembered often feeling a draft on her feet. Canvas covered benches served as seating for the congregation.



In Loyal's own words taken from his autobiography Life Now and Forever, he said: "The Depression was still on nationwide, so it seemed inexpedient to exert financial pressure upon the little group. At least that is what their new leader thought. We found it more in keeping with our gifts and inclinations to promote evangelism and Bible study than to try to raise the amount of money needed to satisfactorily complete construction. Everything considered, at that stage the pioneer spirit of the group, without debt, was quite acceptable, and even enjoyed"²

The young pastor lived on a nearby farm with his uncle, Jacob Gerig, who gave him the use of an acre of ground to help with his expenses. He used the ground to plant and harvest onions. That limited money along with the small weekly offerings barely supported him. He reported that he was able to purchase a car rescued from the junkyard for \$15 that was quite acceptable.



During this time Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hoffer, daughter Norma Jean, the Dolen family, a Mrs. Ridenour and others were added to the church. There was an active youth group as well. Mr. Ringenberg's ministry at the church came to an end in September of 1932, when he accepted a teaching position at Fort Wayne Bible Institute.

Jasper Lehman came to take the pastorate in 1932 and served the church until 1936. There were a couple of extended revivals held that resulted in changed lives and people being added to the congregation. He also chose and married a wife during his time in Auburn.

A neighbor, Harold Link, was watching the people coming and going from the little church. He became curious as to what was happening there and decided to go to find out. It wasn't long until he and his wife, Viva, were convinced that they needed Jesus to be their Savior. Soon after this the young couple began tithing in obedience to the Scriptures. Viva remembered that they had some savings that had never been tithed, so this too was given. Because of receiving this larger gift, the church was able to install a wood floor and others then helped to provide opera seats. For many years, at various times, Harold Link served as deacon, S.S. superintendent and was a long-time Bible teacher. His handwritten accounting of his spiritual journey is included in a book of pictures and documents in a church album. Natalie (Link) McDaniel and Karen (Link) McCoy, granddaughters of Harold and Viva Link are currently a part of Dayspring.

In addition to new converts being added to the church, Ralph and Marie Gerig, whose home and hatchery business were located in Auburn, decided to become a part of the local congregation transferring their membership from the Grabill Missionary Church. Their support, active involvement and wise counsel throughout the years to follow were important factors in getting the church firmly established.

W.B. Uphold came in 1936 to serve as pastor following the ministry of Rev. Lehman. He was a student at Taylor University and drove back and forth on weekends. In 1937 Pastor Uphold left to continue his training in the field of education.



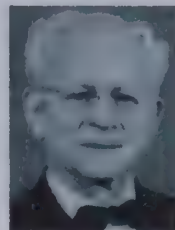
C. B. Vollmer, who followed him, ministered until 1939. At that time he accepted a church in Swanton, Ohio. It is interesting to note that his young daughter, Dorothy, later returned to the church as the wife of Russell Wilbur who was pastor of the church in the fifties. Those pictured are Kathleen Gerig Hinkle (daughter of Ralph and Marie), Dorothy and Mrs. Carol Vollmer.

Another Gerig family chose to leave Grabill Missionary Church to lend their support to the developing work at Auburn. Menno and Zula Gerig, along with their large family, became actively involved in the different ministries of the church. Four of whom eventually went into full time Christian work. Their son, Ardon, stayed in the Auburn area and was an active participant in the church throughout his life.

In the early years of the denomination, Mrs. J.E. Ramseyer searched for a way to get children involved in missions. She developed the Sunshine Makers organization with the idea that each child would keep an acorn-shaped jug and put coins in it throughout the year. This money was to help with the support of the missionary children. The children of the Auburn church participated in saving their money in the acorn banks for many years. Each year a special jug breaking

service was scheduled for the breaking of the banks. Everyone waited eagerly for the announcement of the offering total.

E. F. Clauser ministered as pastor from 1939-1946. During this time a parsonage was purchased at 1100 Ensley Avenue. Until this time pastors had lived in Fort Wayne, Garrett or rented homes in Auburn.



During the 1940's, the church took some of the responsibility for supporting Ethel Smith who left Auburn to become a missionary to India. She served there until the government closed the country to foreign missionaries. Also going as missionaries were Lois Gerig, and Eunice Gerig, daughters of Menno and Zula. They were involved in starting and conducting Sunday Schools and Bible Schools in the hills of Kentucky. They continued until full time churches were started.

While they were students at Fort Wayne Bible College, Darrell Gerig and Zenas Gerig started a countywide singspiration that met once a month at different churches in DeKalb County on Sunday evenings for Christian youth to sing, share testimonies and have fellowship. The meeting was called Christian Youth Crusade or CYC. CYC had a strong following among the youth of the evangelical churches in the county. This group also sponsored county-wide tent meetings in the summer. There were many who accepted Christ through these meetings, one of whom was Carl Murray, now a member of the Auburn church. The CYC organization continued functioning in this way for almost twenty years. In the sixties, CYC became the nucleus for the establishment of Youth for Christ in DeKalb County.

Pastor Clauser was an evangelist at heart and many people were added to the church during his tenure. He left the Auburn church in 1946 to become a full-time evangelist.



Menno Amstutz served the church from 1946-1952 as pastor. It was during his ministry that the people felt the need to have the church in a more visible location. J. Pritchard Amstutz, son of the pastor later wrote: "The church went through a remodeling process soon after the new pastor came to Auburn. The pastor was appointed as the building superintendent. He rolled up his sleeves, put on overalls, and went to work digging earth, pouring cement and pounding nails."³ A decision was made to move the church building from its location on Park Avenue to the corner of Ensley Avenue and Philip Street. Men from the congregation joined with the pastor in this project. Before the building was moved, a basement was dug in order to provide for additional Sunday School space. A steeple was added to improve the appearance of the outside of the building. A dedication service was held November 28, 1948.





There were families that became a part of the church that soon played a strong role in the continued building of the congregation. Some of those who came during this time that have filled significant roles in the church over the years are Gene and Hilda Wasson who are still faithful members along with Ernie and Dessie Greenfield, Garman and Laura Fry; both deceased. Their twin sons, Gerald and Jerald Fry, continue as strong supporters and workers in the church. The photo is one of the Fry, Greenfield and Ralph Gerig families.

Note the twin boys on the left front row.

In 1954, the church took on the major portion of financial support for Zenas and Esther Gerig who went to Jamaica as missionaries. The Gerigs soon saw the need to make schooling available for training Jamaicans so that local people could be equipped to become the leaders of their own churches and Christian organizations. This became a lifelong venture, which saw the development of the Jamaica Theological Seminary and the Caribbean Graduate School of Theology.



J. Harlan Wright came to Auburn in 1952. In addition to serving the church as pastor, he was involved as a singer and song director in the community events sponsored by CYC. Many people in the congregation were active participants as well. A new steeple was added to the church along with a new entrance to the building to give the church a more convenient entry and better appearance.



Evangelist Harold Walker made Auburn his home and attended services when not engaged in his own meetings. He was the speaker at several revival meetings in the church over the years. In his early years in evangelism, he shared the platform with George Pike, a talented musician, who led singing in the services.

Ethel Smith, who had returned from missionary service in India, was hired as a part time worker to head up a children's ministry and to do visitation. Many children from the neighborhood and surrounding area began attending Sunday School and Vacation Bible School through her efforts.

In 1957 Mr. Wright accepted a pastorate in Pandora, Ohio.



Russell Wilbur was the next pastor, and during his ministry an addition was built onto the back of the church giving additional classroom space and adding a fellowship room with a kitchen. The interior of the sanctuary was completely remodeled with carpeting as well as new pew and pulpit furniture at a cost of \$25,000. Dedication for this facility was held in June of 1959.



The church began conducting released time classes of religious training for public school students during the school day. This was continued for several years.



Clinton N. Moser came to the church in August 1959 and ministered for eight years. Information gleaned from church bulletins saved by Mildred (Smith) John showed released-time classes for religious training for grades 3-6, a choir, several dramatic Christmas programs given, and a visitation program had begun to invite new people to church. Ethel Smith started and conducted Junior Church. In addition to the Dorcas Circle, which met for many years during the day for sewing projects, the Women's Missionary Fellowship was organized and met in the evening for fellowship and to provide support for women's missions. The first 'small group' had its beginning with a few ladies at this time as well.

The district conference and convention of the Missionary Church, held traditionally at the Fort Wayne Bible College, was moved in 1965 to Oakwood Park at Lake Wawasee. Many who could not stay for the whole week would drive up to attend some of the meetings on the weekend. As the years went on, more people began attending for the entire week. Children's camp was held at the same location and time.

Proximity to the Fort Wayne headquarters of the church made it possible to have frequent missionary speakers, and each year there was a three-day missions conference. Besides these, Howard and Ruth Moser, missionaries to Ecuador, were often at the church when visiting their parents, Clinton and Esther Moser. Zenas and Esther Gerig made their home in Auburn while on furlough so there was ongoing contact with missionaries. The district later discontinued the missions conferences in favor of having the churches schedule their own missions speakers.

The thirty-fifth anniversary of the church was commemorated on August 22, 1965. Jared Gerig, organizing pastor and charter member of the church, was the speaker. Kathleen (Gerig) Hinkle, Darrell Gerig, Ed and Joyce (Gerig) Widmark all returned for the day and provided special music. Katherine Bailey baked a cake in the shape of the church for the occasion. It was a time of praise and thanksgiving for how the Lord had led and provided during those years and challenge for the years ahead.

Since the beginning of the church, the youth have contributed on a regular basis in serving the church. During this time, it was especially true in the ministry of music. Nancy Warstler, Susan Wasson, Sandra and Carol Ellison, Nevin and Darla Greenawalt were pianists for congregational singing. They frequently sang solos or duets, as did Jane Ellison and Alice Moser. The youth were also active in Missionary Youth Fellowship or MYF. They conducted meetings every Sunday evening as well as social activities. Parents and interested adults sponsored these activities. Some attended the annual National MYF conventions, which later became CDYC on the district level.

Clinton Moser accepted a call to a church in Bluffton, Ohio in 1967. Upon retirement, the Moser's returned to Auburn and Clinton served as the calling pastor for several years.

In 1967, James Ebersole served as pastor and left in 1968 to serve a church in Crawfordsville, Indiana.



The church was able to minister to the community by monthly services conducted by the youth or various men at the County Farm. This ministry went on for many years with participants from all ages and groups.



Robert Dye became the pastor in 1968 and during his pastorate the parsonage at 1100 Ensley was sold and another purchased at 716 Brentwood Circle. It was possible to pay for the improvements to the church building with the funds from the parsonage and also have a down payment for the new parsonage. The mortgage burning service was held December 1, 1968. Former pastors Jared

Gerig and J. Harlan Wright took part in this service and are pictured with Bob Dye, Wayne Openlander, Jean Wasson, Wayne Dancer and Jerald Fry. Talk of relocating and building larger accommodations was begun during this time.



For several years, volunteers from the church had a bookshop in the Industrial Tent during the DeKalb County Free Fall Fair. Several new families became active in the church, serving on the board, teaching in the Sunday School as well as conducting Bible studies in the community.

A Men's Missionary Fellowship was organized, holding regular meetings and events to encourage fellowship among the men of the church and providing an opportunity to invite friends and co-workers.

A bus ministry to transport children to Sunday School and church services was begun. Gerald and Jerald Fry operated the buses and coverage included Garrett and Auburn. It was quite a challenge to keep the buses in good working condition and the men gave the buses expert care. Later Carl Murray was also involved in driving and maintaining the buses. The Rumbaugh's from Garrett were reached for the Lord because their son Timm first had contact with the church through the bus ministry.

Robert & Helene Elliott, former missionaries to the Dominican Republic, came to the church for a one-year ministry, 1972-1973. People were saddened that circumstances made it necessary for the Elliotts to leave after such a short time with the church.



Roy Kruger served the church from 1973-1977. Five acres of land on West Seventh Street was purchased for a new church building. It was the desire of the congregation to have larger facilities and a more visible location in order to widen its circle of influence for Christ. Ground was broken, a contractor hired, and the construction

was begun in 1974. Many hours of volunteer labor helped in keeping the cost to \$219,100. God blessed the building project with a sense of purpose and cooperation. Sacrifices of time and money were a common occurrence. Several families gave up their vacations to not only work but also donated the money that would have been spent on their own enjoyment. It was with great joy that the building was completed and then dedicated to the Lord on January 26, 1975 by Dr. Kenneth Geiger, president of the Missionary Church.



Naomi Rakestraw presented the church with a new Allen organ in memory of two charter members, Raymond Rakestraw and Bonnie (Rakestraw) Sweitzer. Ira Gerig performed the dedication concert on January 26, 1975. Don and Bonnie Greenawalt presented the church with a Sohmer baby grand piano. The time of worship and quality of music was greatly enriched by the use of these instruments.



In order to meet the needs of the growing youth population, the church hired Ross Mahan to direct the activities and foster the spiritual growth of the youth. The young people were very active in the life of the church. The first Bible quiz team was organized and the team participated with enthusiasm and fairly good success in competition. Scripture memorization is a lasting benefit of this program. Jenny (Parrish) Bartels and Donna Fry gave leadership to those first teams and Donna Fry continues giving priority to this worthwhile program.

In August of 1977, Jim Larnard became the fifteenth pastor of the Auburn Missionary Church. He and his wife Elaine had a music ministry in the community as well as in the church. This was a positive impact on community relations. For a short time a radio broadcast of the Sunday morning service was aired on WIFF.

Don Bettinger became a part-time Youth Director while attending Fort Wayne Bible College. He continued until he and Marla (Murray) Bettinger went as missionaries to Taiwan. They are working in the area of reaching the Taiwanese through the teaching of English. The congregation has had a part in their support over the years.



For several years during the Christmas season, the church people presented an outdoor Living Nativity Pageant for the community. This was well attended by the public. It was helpful in giving a favorable first introduction to the church for those who normally didn't venture that far east of town. It was definitely an activity for the hardy because of the periods of time spent in the sometimes-extreme temperatures, but there was enthusiastic participation in this project.

Bob and Delores Rumbaugh had land in the country near Garrett with a lovely pond and a gazebo. They graciously hosted many church outings there. Bob also served as contractor for the two additions that were built onto the church.

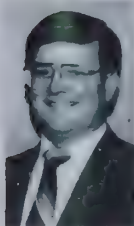
The Larnards left Auburn in 1983 to serve a newly formed church in Palm Harbor, Florida.

In the summer of 1983, Bill Malick became senior pastor of the congregation. The attendance increased so that it became necessary to begin the second worship service in 1984. A program of



Discipleship Training was conducted with participation by the congregation. This was conducted in small groups with the purpose of teaching Bible study, personal devotions, and accountability.

A new education wing and office space was added to the building in 1985. Two years later in 1987, a second addition provided a spacious fellowship/worship center.



Mike Cadrette was hired as the first full-time associate pastor. He was also active in the Discipleship Training sessions that began meeting as small groups in homes. There was a group of young single adults that he and his wife Sharon mentored. The Cadrettes left in 1987 so that Mike could attend Asbury Seminary.

Marty Longcor came as the new associate in late 1987. His principal responsibility was in the area of youth, which he fulfilled until leaving in 1993 to work as youth director in a church plant in Colorado.



The new fellowship hall that was completed in 1987 provided much needed Sunday School space. This facility also made it possible to establish Creative Play School, a pre-school which provided an opportunity for children to experience guided learning through play in a Christian atmosphere. Although it was independently operated, the church housed and gave support and cooperation for this endeavor. The pre-school came to be widely accepted and supported by the community. It was continued until 2001 when it was moved to the County Line Church of God.

The church adopted Jamaica as a missions project. Bill Malick spent time on the island for a time of evangelism. Later some of the Jamaican young people came to Auburn for two weeks, ministering and fellowshiping with our people. It was a good spiritual and cultural exchange.

Oak Meadows, a training center for handicapped people, is located near the church so it became an opportunity for outreach. Wayne and Barb Openlander, Russ and Lucy Lesser along with Ray and Charlotte Fee began the Agape class that met at the church on Sunday mornings. This class was later moved to the Oak Meadows facility with Wayne Openlander continuing this ministry.

In the summer or 1988 Bill Malick accepted the position of Director of Church Planting in the Western District of the Missionary Church.

After serving as missionary to Ecuador, Bill Lyne became the senior pastor at the church in 1988. During his tenure, a major renovation of the auditorium included enlarging the platform and replacing the pews with portable seating. The office area was enlarged and remodeled for additional staff and more efficiency. The nursery



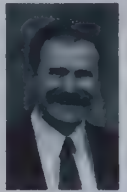
was enlarged and renovated as well.

Jerald Fry, Gene Wasson and others have transported some of the residents of the Wesley Health Care, located behind the church, to the Sunday morning services.



In 1993, the pastoral team was enlarged to include Scott Kennedy as pastor of youth. He is remembered also for his active part in the 'Jesus is Alive' production. He involved the youth in several short-term mission trips and the Christmas project, Angel Tree. He left in 1998 to take a senior pastor position in East York, PA.

Also in 1993, Roy Protsman came to Auburn as the membership pastor and later as director of small groups. He also had a counseling ministry. In March of 2001, he left the church to develop a full time counseling business in Auburn.



An Easter drama "Jesus Is Alive" was presented to the community for three years. It was written and directed by Laura Chase along with Bill Lyne. Many of the people in the congregation participated in this drama which presented Christ's ministry and culminated in his death and resurrection. It was presented as an evangelistic outreach during the Easter season.

The name change to Dayspring Community Church was made in 1998. Increased attendance made a third worship service necessary. A change to the seeker-sensitive/purpose-driven style of church program was adopted. A number of new people were added to the church membership through the declaration of faith and following the Lord in baptism.

In 1999, Marty Longcor returned to Auburn as an associate pastor. Matt Lesser and Julie Stackhouse were added to the staff as part-time youth workers along with Ruthann Longcor and Jonell Malcolm as part-time children's staff. In 2000, Dan Vukmirovich became Director of Creative Arts and Mark Closson was hired in 2001 as youth director.

An innovative series of television ads were aired promoting our church on several cable stations for two years. They were designed not only as an invitation to attend the services but also to develop some awareness of the church to those who did not know of its existence.

Burt and Elsie Dickman host a church picnic at their home each summer. Their swimming pool, lake and waterslide provide a great time of fun. Baptisms are sometimes held at this time as well. Occasionally the church has been able to use the facilities at the YMCA or the skating rink for some family activities.

Twice a year, Phil Chase M.D. leads a group of volunteers to Mexico for the multi-purpose ministry of evangelizing, constructing buildings, conducting a medical clinic and holding a Bible school for the children. Many of the church people have participated in this endeavor. The youth have been involved in short-term mission trips to Mexico and Nicaragua.

For several years, a Food Pantry was housed at the church to help those in the area that were in need. At the time Shelter Ministries started their Good Samaritan Center, the church joined with

other churches of Auburn to combine their resources and equipment so that there would be a more central place in which to provide assistance. The church continues to support this ministry as well as Youth for Christ, Child Evangelism and DeKalb County Council on Pregnancy, which are other local Christian outreach organizations.

Some members or former members of the church have been or are currently involved in full-time Christian service. Besides the ones previously mentioned, Dale Gerig, serves as pastor, David and Julie Rotz as missionaries, John Hursh, Campus Crusade, Matt Murray, Eagle's Nest Ministries, Bob Sweeney, pastor, Ron Hege and Ric Reger, Youth for Christ, and Thad Smith, Shelter Ministries.

Missionaries who receive financial support from the church are David and Julie Rotz, Thailand; Don and Marla Bettinger, Taiwan; Dave and Debbie Kornfield, Brazil; Tom and Pam Tharpe, U.S.A.; Ralph and Norma Brandenburg, Cuba; and Al & Kris Steiner, undisclosed location.

The church's purpose is stated thus: Dayspring Community Church exists to bring people to Jesus and connect them into His family, to help them grow in their faith, serve others through a ministry, and reach lost people for Christ, all in order to honor God.

Dayspring Community Church is affiliated with the Missionary Church with headquarters in Fort Wayne, Indiana. It is a 374-church denomination committed to church planting and world missions where it has missionary work in 27 nations through its outreach agency, World Partners U.S.A. Because of the increasing number of people of Hispanic, Asian and Puerto Rican descent, there is a concerted effort to plant churches in the American communities where they are located. It has origins in the Anabaptist tradition and was established in 1898.

¹ Interview with Jared & Mildred Gerig : January 13, 2001

² Life Now and Forever: Loyal Ringenberg

³ The Reverend Menno Amstutz an Energetic Missionary Church Pioneer: J. Pritchard Amstutz

This writing is an attempt to record some of the events and progress of the church in Auburn from the beginning. It is not meant to glorify the past but to recall the way God has faithfully led His congregation through the years to do His work and to be His people.

